



TAEF Producer Diversification Program

Honey Bee Criteria

For Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011

Program Criteria:

- This information is current as of **April 1, 2010** and is a supplement to the TAEF 2010 Application and Guidelines.
- Minimum requirements to participate: **(3)** three years beekeeping experience and **(5)** five existing colonies. Applicants must report experience and number of hives in the application proposal to be eligible.
- **Producers** are eligible for the following cost share percentages for qualified expenses:
 - **Standard** - 35% cost share up to a maximum of \$10,000.
 - **Priority** - 50% cost share up to a maximum of \$15,000 for producers meeting special requirements for select items.
- The proposed activity must encompass quality expansion or improvement of pollination or honey production. The eligible categories are:
 - Apiary expansion
 - Honey processing equipment
 - Pollination services

Priority Cost Share – Special Requirements for 50% Cost Share:

Who is eligible?

The requirement for **50%** Cost Share is the completion of the UT Extension Hobbyist Bee Master Level Course. Applicants may apply for 50% if they have completed or plan to attend the course. They must submit a copy of the course completion certificate with application or reimbursement materials prior to the program reimbursement deadline to receive **50 %** cost share.

Regulatory Requirements:

- Apiaries must be registered with the State of Tennessee. Contact Mike Studer with the TN Department of Agriculture—Regulatory Services at (615) 837-5317 or Mike.Studer@tn.gov
- If you pack or sell more than 150 gallons of honey per year, you must be licensed and inspected by the State of Tennessee as a food manufacturing facility. Contact John Sanford with the TN Dept. Of Ag. – Reg. Services at (615) 837-5193.

Experience Criteria:

- Producers must have a minimum of three years experience to participate. Experience must be hands-on experience working with hives (colonies).
- If the producer has worked with other beekeepers and mentors in working directly with bees, he or she may count this hands-on experience towards the three year requirement. The producer should list the beekeeper worked with, along with their contact information, and time worked to qualify towards experience.
- Producers do not have to have had ownership of hives for at least three years to be eligible. However, producers must have current ownership of at least 5 colonies.

Examples of Eligible Items:

Apiary Expansion:

Beekeeping Supplies

- Queens: (1) Queen per new hive — Requeening of existing hives is not eligible
- Package Bees (Honey Bees Only)
- Nucleus Colonies (Honey Bees Only)

Hive or Super Equipment

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Frames (Not for Maintenance of Existing Colonies)

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Foundation Wax (Not for Maintenance of Existing Colonies)

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Hive Accessories (For Increase, Not Maintenance)

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|---|-----------------------|
| • Telescoping Covers, Western or Flat Cover | • Entrance Reducers |
| • Bottom Boards | • Metal Frame Spacers |
| • Division Board Feeders | • Metal Rabbits |
| • Entrance Feeder | • Eyelets |
| • Top Feeders | • Frame Wire |
| • Queen Excluders | • Pollen Traps |

Honey Processing Equipment:

- Extractors
- Gates for Honey Storage Containers (> 5 Gallon and usually Stainless Steel)
- Uncapping Knives
- Capping Scratchers
- Immersion Heaters
- Band Heaters
- Drum Handling Truck
- Strainers
- Bottling Bucket Kit
- Uncappers
- Wax Melters (mechanical or solar)
- Honey Dispensing Tanks
- Honey Filters
- Honey Pumps
- Honey Bottling Valve
- Honey Refractometer

Pollination Services:

- All items and equipment listed above are eligible under the pollination service.
- Trailers —size cannot be larger than needed for the number of colonies. **Trailers for pollination are only eligible for the 35% reimbursement.**

Examples of Ineligible Items:

- **Used Equipment & Materials**
- Honey Houses
- Materials for Self-Made Construction
- Smokers
- Smoker Bellows
- Smoker Materials
- Hive Tools
- Maxant Hive Tools
- Section Scraping Tools
- Bee Brush
- Frame Grip(s)
- Frame Cleaner
- Labels
- Ross Rounds
- Comb Cutters
- Swarm Traps
- Observation Hives
- Frame Spacing Tool
- Frame Fixers
- Frame Holders
- Electric Embedder
- Frame/Form Board
- Coveralls
- Sweet Bands
- Sting Kill Swabs
- Veils
- Bee Hats
- Beekeeping Gloves
- Brood Builder
- Medications
- Diagnostic Kits
- Small Hive Beetle Traps
- Queen Rearing Systems
- Queen Paint Markers
- Queen Cell Protectors
- Nuc Boxes
- Plastic Queen Cell Cups
- Grafting Tools
- Mailing Cages
- Queen Clipping Scissors
- Bee Escapes
- Bee Go (Product for moving bees out of supers)

- Fume Boards
- Honey Jars
- Honey Labels
- Jar Caps
- Honey Containers (buckets)
- Corn Syrup
- Sugar

Bee Master Course:

University of Tennessee Extension (Instructor: John Skinner) provides the Hobbyist Bee Master Level Course in regional locations across the state. The course is a 3 day course offered in the afternoons, with over 20 hours worth of training. Visit <http://bees.tennessee.edu> for information on how to register for the course.

Contact:

- For more information regarding the TAEP Producer Diversification Program – contact **Jon Frady** at 615-837-5344 or Producer.Diversification@TN.gov
- For information regarding TDA Market Development & Tennessee Honey – contact **Linda Shelton** at 615-837-5345 or Linda.Shelton@TN.gov
- Check for updates at <http://www.TN.gov/agriculture/enhancement> or 1-800-342-8206